

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /016 W
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P R 191700Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
TO USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1123

UNCLAS MONROVIA 5113

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:BEXP, LI

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE REIMPOSITION OF IMPORT BAN ON USED CLOTHING

1. THE GOL IS CONSIDERING REIMPOSING ITS BAN ON THE IMPORT OF USED CLOTHING TO LIBERIA WHICH IT LIFTED AT THE END OF 1975. ITS REASON FOR THIS IS FOR SANITARY CONSIDERATIONS, FEARING THAT USED CLOTHING AND RAGS ARE DIRTY AND CARRY ORGANISMS AND/OR VERMIN WHICH MAY BE A HAZZARD TO HEALTH.
 2. IN TALKING WITH AMERICAN EXPORTERS IN LAST FEW MONTHS, WE GET IMPRESSION THAT USED CLOTHINGS/RAGS IS BIG BUSINESS IN US, AND THAT GOODS ARE THOROUGHLY PROCESSED PRIOR TO EXPORT TO ENSURE THEY SANITARY. IF THIS INDEED THE CASE, WE WOULD HATE TO SEE LIBERIAN MARKET CLOSED TO US EXPORTERS.
 3. WHILE IT DIFFICULT TO GET ACCURATE FIGURES, WE ESTIMATE THAT IN PERIOD SINCE BAN WAS LIFTED, IMPORTS OF USED CLOTHING/RAGS TO LIBERIA HAVE BEEN IN EXCESS DOLS TWO (2) MILLION. THIS PROBABLY CONSERVATIVE FIGURE SINCE WE ESTIMATE BETWEEN 85 AND 90 PERCENT GOODS THIS TYPE IMPORTED LIBERIA END UP IN NEIGHBORING WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES. THEREFORE, GOL DERIVES REVENUE (FROM DUTIES) ON IMPORTS AND HAS STAKE IN SEEING THEM CONTINUE.
 4. GOL OFFICIALS HAVE RAISED MATTER WITH US AND ASKED IF THERE ANY USG SYSTEM OF INSPECTION OF THIS TYPE GOODS, OR IF WE HAVE INFORMATION ON HOW GOODS THIS TYPE ARE CLEANED AND PROCESSED. WE WISH TO BE RESPONSIVE THEIR INQUIRY AND SUPPLY THEM WITH AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE VERY QUICKLY IN ORDER
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HEAD OFF REIMPOSITION OF BAN, WHICH BEING CONSIDERED AS EARLY

AS END OF MONTH.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE SOONEST AS MUCH INFO
AS POSSIBLE ON HOW USED CLOTHING IS PROCESSED IN US FOR
EXPORT, ESPECIALLY IF THERE ANY USG INSPECTION INVOLVED.
CARTER

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NNN

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Disposition Event:
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